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EXCALIBUR



ENTER

**X
MAN**

CARLOS PACHECO
OF MARVEL

**HOPE
YOU
SURVIVE
THE EXPERIENCE!!**

DIRECT EDITION

09511 >



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XED FROM
SOCIETY.

WE'RE RUSHING
TOWARDS THE
END OF THE CENTURY, OUR
IDEAS ABOUT SOCIETY, SCIENCE,
AND EVEN REALITY, BREAKING
UP IN THE SLIPSTREAM.

THESE FINAL DAYS OF THE
20TH CENTURY ARE THE
DAYS OF THE X-FACTOR --
THE WILD GENE, WHOSE
RARE PRESENCE GIFTS
SUPERHUMANITY, A SUPER-
HUMANITY THAT A WORLD
ALREADY BENT DOUBLE
WITH STRESS SIMPLY CANNOT
DEAL WITH.

MANY OF THOSE WITH THE
X-FACTOR HAVE COME
TOGETHER AT THE BEHEST
OF ONE MUTANT, CHARLES
XAVIER, TO WORK TOWARDS
HIS PERSONAL DREAM --
PEACEFUL CO-EXISTENCE
BETWEEN HUMAN AND MUTANT.

THEY WEAR THE MARK
OF THEIR BANNING
FROM HUMAN SOCIETY
PROUDLY AS SYMBOL
OF THEIR GORL... THEY
ARE THE **X-MEN**

THESE ARE THE STORIES OF
THE INTERNATIONAL
X-GROUP, NAMED FOR
THE MYTHIC BLADE THAT
LEGEND SAYS UNITED
A PEOPLE:

EXCALIBUR



BASED ON
MUIR ISLAND
IN SCOTLAND,
OWNED BY
DR. MOIRA
MACTAGGART;



LED BY THE GERMAN
TELEPORTER
KURT WAGNER --

-- SEEN HERE
WITH HIS
LOVER, THE
MAGICIAN
RANANDA
SEFTON.



KITTY PRYDE, WHO
GREW UP AS AN
AMERICAN X-MAN --



-- AND PETE WISDOM,
WHO RECENTLY GREW
OUT OF BEING A BRITISH
SECRET SERVICE MAN.



RAHNE SINCLAIR,
THE YOUNG SCOTS-
WEREWOMAN.



PIOTR NIKOLEVITCH
RASPUTIN, THE
TROUBLED RUSSIAN
X-MAN.



THE PHYSICIST AND
RETIRED SUPERHERO
BRIAN BRADDOCK,
WITH THE ELEMENTAL
MEGGAN.



THE HAUNTED DR.
RORY CAMPBELL,
WITH DOUGLOCK,
THE GHOST OF A
DEAD BOY CAST
IN WIRES.

PREVIOUSLY:

NATHAN GREY COMES FROM AN ALTERNATE REALITY.

ONE WHERE A DARKWING MONSTER CALLED APOCALYPSE HELD SWAY OVER A RUINED AMERICA --

-- AN AMERICA THAT EVENTUALLY WAS SCRUBBED CLEAN BY A NUCLEAR FIRE.

AT THE END OF THE WORLD, NATE WAS SHUNTED SIDWAYS THROUGH REALITY INTO OUR REALITY.

HE KNOWS NOTHING OF OUR WORLD, AND LITTLE MORE ABOUT HIS OWN ORIGINS.

NATE GREY WAS GROWN, FROM THE GENETIC STOCK OF TWO MUTANTS, THEREBY GIFTED WITH PHENOMENAL TELEKINETIC AND TELEPATHIC ABILITY.

AFTER ENTERING OUR WORLD THROUGH THE M'KRRAN CRYSTAL, HE BEFRIENDED A WOMAN WHO, UNKNOWINGSTO HIM, WAS BEING MANIPULATED BY ANOTHER.

AFTER A CONFUSED BATTLE WITH CHARLES XAVIER, IN WHICH NATE THOUGHT HE'D KILLED THE MAN, NATE HAS TRAVELLED TO MUIR ISLAND IN THE HOPE OF LEARNING ABOUT HIMSELF.

MOIRA MCTAGGERT HAS JUST DISCOVERED THAT NATE GREY HAS BEEN DESIGNED TO DIE BEFORE THE AGE OF TWENTY-ONE.

NATE HAS JUST FOUND HER DISCUSSING IT -- WITH CHARLES XAVIER -- AND HAS ONLY PARTIALLY READ HER MIND.

MIR ISLAND
IN THE DEAD
OF NIGHT;

SO
WHERE'S
COMRADE
NUTCASE?

PETER'S
OUTSIDE WITH
KURT. HE HASN'T
BEEN AROUND
MUCH...

NOP
I THOUGHT
HE CAME TO
MAKE A FRIENDLY
VISIT. AND,
Y'KNOW --

-- SWEEP
YOU OFF YOUR FEET
AND PUT ME IN THE
BLEEDIN' HOSPITAL
FOR THREE WEEKS...

OH, COME ON, PETE.
I EXPLAINED ALL
THAT TO
YOU.

HE WAS
OUT OF HIS MIND
OVER ALL HE'D BEEN
THROUGH. SORT OF A
"TEMPORARY INSANITY"
KIND OF THING. I
MEAN, THAT'S NO
EXCUSE,
BUT...

... ANYWAY, KURT DOESN'T
THINK HE REALLY TRIED
TO KILL YOU -- THOSE
BLOWS WERE MORE
LIKE HYSTERICAL
SLAPS.

ONCE
YOU SEE THE
REAL COLOSSUS,
THE ONE I KNEW,
YOU'LL UNDERSTAND.

BESIDES,
YOU PROBABLY
DESERVED IT, YA
BIG FLIRT.

Heh heh
Hag00m.

... DON'T
MAKE ME
LAUGH. IT STILL
HURTS.

THE THING ABOUT EXPLOSIONS
IS THAT YOU NEVER REALIZE WHAT
THEY ARE UNTIL AFTERWARDS.



THE
OTHERS
WILL NOT
TALK TO
ME.

I'VE SEEN
RAHNE AND
KITTY TALKING
TO YOU.



THEY
WILL NOT
TALK TO
ME...
...ABOUT
WHAT HAPPENED
WHEN I
ARRIVED.

WE'VE
ALL BEEN
THROUGH THE
MILL LATELY.
EVERYONE HAS A
LOT TO THINK
ABOUT.



Mmm.
I THINK RORY'S
GOING TO
MAKE YOU HIS
THERAPY.

YES, I
HEARD WISDOM
SAY IT WOULDN'T
BE EASY FOR RORY
TO RUN AWAY
FROM HIS
PROBLEMS...



GIVE
THEM TIME, MY
FRIEND.

YOUR
SUDDEN
APPEARANCE
SHOCKED ALL
OF US.

MAYBE.
MAYBE...
RORY HAS BEEN
HELPING ME...
TALK THINGS
OUT.



WISDOM
IS A TERRIBLE
MAN.

AND HE'S
OBVIOUSLY
FEELING BETTER
IF HE'S MAKING
JOKES ABOUT A
FRIEND WHO
JUST LOST
HALF HIS
LEG.

A P L E D H E A R T

a
STAN LEE
presentation

The writer, **WARREN ELLIS**, is pleased to announce that **CARLOS PACHECO**, pencil artist, and **BOB WIAKEM**, ink artist, join him as Excalibur's creative team.

Oh, and **JOE ROSAS**, **MALIBU'S HUES** colorist, **color sepe** **RICHARD STARKINGS**, **SUZANNE COMICRAFT**, **GAFFNEY** lettering, editor, and **BOB HARRAS**, our fearless leader, are still here, too.



THE COMMUNICATIONS SUITE.

TRY AND
TRICK ME
NOW!

TRY
AND TRICK ME
NOW!

I'M
GRUIN' DIE!



THAT
CAME FROM THE
COMMUNICATIONS
SUITE.

THAT
BLOODY SCOTCH
SADIST'S BLOWN
UP THE COMMS
SUITE!

HOLD ON --

-- I'LL
PHASE US
DOWN TO
THE NEXT
FLOOR.

IT'LL GET
US THERE **FASTER.**



IT
CAME FROM
THE COMMS
SUITE --

-- NATE'S
LET HIS POWER
OUT --

EVERY
TIME I TRY TO
HAVE AN **EARLY**
NIGHT --



YOU'RE
ALL IN IT WITH
XAVIER --

-- HE
TRIED TO
KILL ME,
BUT I **BEAT**
HIM --

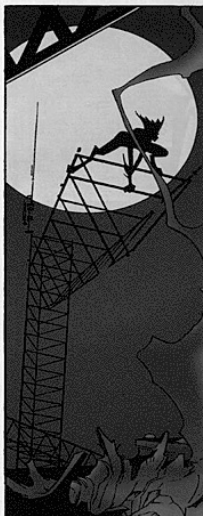


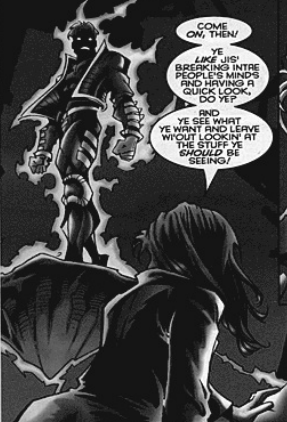
-- YOU'RE
ALL TRYING
TO KILL
ME!



I
READ YOUR
MIND --

-- YOU
WANT ME
DEAD BEFORE
I'M **TWENTY-**
ONE --





COME ON, THEN!

YE LIKE JUI'S
BREAKING INTRAE
PEOPLE'S MINDS
AND HAVING A
QUICK LOOK,
DO YE?

AND
YE SEE WHAT
YE WANT AND LEAVE
WYOUT LOOKIN' AT
THE STUFF YE
SHOULD BE
SEEING!



SPOOR,
DOWNSTAIRS IN
THE PENS --

-- HE TOLD
ME ABOUT
YOU, SO I --



TOLD
YE WHAT?

DID
YE READ HIS
MIND?

NO.



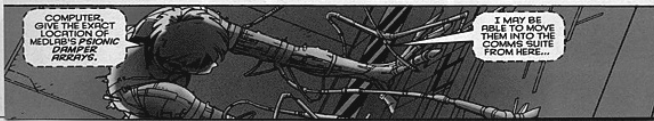
NATE GREY'S MIND REACHES
OUT TO THE CELLS, WHERE
SPOOR LINGUISTES.

SPOOR TOLD NATE THAT
MOURA AND HER KIND
IMPRISONED HIM FOR NO
REASON OTHER THAN EVIL.

NATE REMEMBERS
CELLS, AND REACTED
INSTINCTIVELY.

HE DIDN'T READ
SPOOR'S MIND.

UNTIL NOW, HE WAS UNAWARE
THAT SPOOR HAS BEEN KILLING
PEOPLE SINCE HE WAS THIRTEEN
YEARS OLD.



COMPUTER,
GIVE THE EXACT
LOCATION OF
MEDLAB'S PSIONIC
DAMPER
ARRAYS.

I MAY BE
ABLE TO MOVE
THEM INTO THE
COMMS SUITE
FROM HERE...



GUTE
NACHT,
NATE.

STAY
AWAY FROM
ME --

RIGHT.

GAME
OVER,
SUNBEAM.

KURTP

ONLY
HURTS...
WHEN I
BREATHE...

KITTY PRYDE'S BATTLE
INSTINCT HAS HER RENDER
HERSELF INTANGIBLE AT A
THOUGHT.

INTANGIBLE ENOUGH FOR A
PSIONIC HAMMERBLOW TO
PASS STRAIGHT THROUGH
HER.

NOT ME
BLOODY RIBS
AGAIN.



KILLED
ME TIE,
TOO...



MOIRA, BACK
AWAY --

-- I'LL
COME AND
CHASE
YOU --

YOU
STAY RIGHT
THERE, YOUNG
LADY --

-- I'LL
GET TAE YOU
ONCE I'M
FINISHED W/
HIM!



SO NOW
YOU'VE SEEN
THAT SPOOR
LIED.

RIGHT?

SO
YOU HAD NAE
REASON TO PICK
INTO MY
MIND.

SO
LET'S FINISH
THE JOB AND
SEE HOW STUPID
YOU REALLY
ARE!

READ
MY MIND,
NATHAN!



NATE, ALMOST DESPITE
HIMSELF, ACTIVATES HIS
PSI-TALENT AGAIN.

IMAGES OF LOST LOVES,
DEAR LOVERS, GENES
AND VIRUSES LEAK INTO
HIS MIND...



NO!
DON'T
MOVE!

RAHNE? WHY NOT?

MOIRA
MUST BE IN
DANGER --



LADY
MOIRA'S PUTTING
THE HARD WORD
ON HIM --



-- AND
IT'S WORKING
SOMEHOW.

HE
DOESN'T
KNOW HOW TO
ARGUE WITH
HER.

GUESS
NO ONE'S
REALLY CALLED
HIM ON HIS
ATTITUDE
BEFORE.

HE
CAN COPE
WITH FIGHTS, BUT
MOIRA'S ACTUALLY
TALKING HIM TO
DEATH!



OH.

WITHIN MOIRRE'S
MIND HANGS AN
PAINFUL TRAGEDY
OF MEMORY.

HER SON BY DEAD JOE
MISTAGGERT GROWING
INTO AN UNCONTROLLABLE
MUTANT DEATHBRINGER
WHO COULD TWIST REALITY
IN HIS HANDS.

HER SON'S DEATH AT THE
HANDS OF HER FRIEND --
ONE MURDER AGAINST THE
INCALCULABLE DEATH HER
SON WOULD'VE WROUGHT.

AND THE PHOENIX, ANOTHER
FRIEND EATEN AWAY BY HER
OWN POWERS --

-- NATE SEES HIS OWN
FACE REFLECTED IN HER
EYES AND THE SON'S,
AND REALIZES MOIRRE'S
FEAR FOR HIM...

... THE LEGACY VIRUS AND THE
MANY DYINGS OF LIGHT THAT
HER AND HER COLLEAGUE AND
OLDEST FRIEND, CHARLES
XAVIER, HAVE RAILED AGAINST.

THE LEGACY
VIRUS --

-- TICKING AWAY IN HER OWN
CELLULAR STRUCTURE LIKE A
BOMB, THE ONLY HUMAN TO
HAVE BEEN INFECTED.



AYE.

I'VE
BEEN HERE
BEFORE.

I'VE SEEN
CHILDREN KILLED AND
CORRUPTED BY THEIR POWER.

I'VE
SEEN MY OWN
SON --

-- DIE
AT THE HANDS
OF ONE OF MY
FRIENDS --



-- AND
HE *HAD* TO DO
IT, TOO, OR ELSE
WE WOULDN'T
BE HERE
NOW.

WE'RE
NOT GOING
TO KILL YOU
BEFORE
ZI.

YOUR
OWN BODY
WILL.

THAT'S
WHAT I WAS
TALKING TO
CHARLES
ABOUT.

HE LET
YOU BELIEVE HE
WAS DEAD BECAUSE
YOUR POWER...
FRIGHTENED HIM, AND
HE KNEW HE COULD
HELP YOU BETTER
IN SECRET.

NATE,
WE'RE HERE
TO HELP.

ALL
OF US.

THIS
IS A MEDICAL
INSTALLATION.

EXCALIBUR
IS A DEFENSIVE
UNIT WHEREVER
POSSIBLE.



WE'RE
HERE TO
HELP.



AND
PERHAPS
YOU'D LIKE TO
READ MY MIND,
TOVARISCH,
TO CONFIRM
THIS.



AND
MINE.



ME.
TOO.

I'VE
KNOWN LADY
MORRA LONGER THAN
ANYONE HERE,
NATE.

I
CAN'T HANDLE
THIS...



I BLOODY HATE
MacTAGGERT,
SO READ MY
MIND...

... YOU
HORRIBLE
LITTLE MTY
CLONE

WE'RE
IN ON THIS
TOO.

JA...



OH,
MAN, I CAN'T
COPE WITH
THIS...

... YOU'RE
ALL
LYING...

... OR
SOMETHING...



... IT'S ALL
WRONG...

GOOD
EVENING.

Huh?



I AM
DOUBLOCK.

I AM
LOCATED
OUTSIDE
MEDLAB.

IT IS
POSSIBLE
TO READ MY
CORTEX,
TOO.



YOU
TERRIFY
ME.

SO
TAKE A LOOK
INSIDE MY HEAD,
FIND OUT WHY
I'M STILL
HERE.

YEAH,
RIGHT.

THIS
IS A
SCAM...



IT'S
EASY TO GET
CONFUSED...

... LASH
OUT...

... STOP
THINKING...

IT'S
HARD TO TAKE
RESPONSIBILITY AND
ACCEPT THE TRUTH
FOR WHAT IT IS,
SOMETIMES.



TAKE
THE *HARD*
WAY.

IT'S
WORTH
IT.



NOW THAT YOU UNDERSTAND
HOW *CRUEL* AND *STUPID*
YOU CAN BE W/ YOUR
POWERS...

... NATE
GREY...

... IT'S
WAY PAST
TIME YOU USED
THEM TO
EDUCATE
YOURSELF.

DO
AS I
SAY.

READ
OUR MINDS.
YOU'LL BE ALL
RIGHT.



A HALO OF PSIONICS
LINKS EACH MIND TO
NATE'S.

KURT WAGNER IS HERE
BECAUSE OF XAVIER'S
VISION, THE DREAM OF
CO-EXISTENCE.

KITTY PRYDE IS HERE
BECAUSE TO HER, IT'S
THE ONLY FIGHT WORTH
FIGHTING FOR.

MEGGAN IS HERE
TO LEARN, AND TO
DO GOOD WITH
THAT LEARNING.

BRIAN BRADDOCK
IS HERE BECAUSE
HE KNOWS IT TO
BE RIGHT.

PIOTR NIKOLEVITCH
RASPUTIN IS HERE
BECAUSE HE HAS
COME FULL CIRCLE
TO THE VERACITY
OF THE VISION.

PETE WISDOM IS
HERE BECAUSE
THE JOB NEEDS
DOING.

RAHNE SINCLAIR IS
HERE TO HELP STOP
YOUNG MUTANTS
SUFFERING IN THE
WAYS SHE DID.

DOUGLOCK IS HERE TO EFFECT
CO-EXISTENCE BETWEEN THE
VERY COMPONENTS OF HIS MIND.

RORY CAMPBELL IS HERE BECAUSE
HE FEARS BECOMING A MUTANT-
HATER, AND THIS IS THE BEST PLACE
TO STAND AGAINST THAT FEAR.

MORNING
OVER
MUIR.

IT'S BEEN A LONG
NIGHT FOR NATE
GREY.

THERE HAVE
BEEN TEARS.

HE LEFT SAYING THAT HE
HAS TO FIND HIS FRIEND,
TO TALK THINGS OVER.

AND THEN HE MIGHT
TRY AND RETURN, TO
SOLVE THE SECRET OF
HIS LIMITED LIFESPAN...

... BUT THERE'RE
THINGS TO DO
FIRST ...

YE
THINK HE'LL BE
BACK?

I
DUNNO.

HE'S
GOT NO LIFE
EXPERIENCE,
RAHNE.

COULDN'T
HAVE TALKED
DOWN ANYONE
ELSE LIKE
THAT.

THIS
WORLD'S GOT
SHARP TEETH, AND
HE HAS SO MUCH
TO LEARN.

I
JUST HOPE
HE'LL LIVE
TO COME
BACK.

END

SWORDSTROKES

Dear Swordstrokes,

You people make me mad. I just recently got back into the x-books and thought I'd give EXCALIBUR a try. That was my mistake. After I got done reading #88 I thought that you guys had the best drawing out the x-books. I continued to buy Excalibur since the first part of "Dream Nails" was so good. "Easy Tiger" went on and was about as good as Part One. Then, in "Blood Eagle", you went so much above the rest of the series, that, along with #91, you have made Excalibur my favorite comic book. I especially like the part where Moira gets drunk in #91.

Now for some questions:

- 1) What's going to happen to Black Air now that Pete and Kitty have exposed its work at Dream Nails?
- 2) What happened to the Uncreated?
- 3) Can Shadowcat phase threw any substance?

Until next time, make mine Marvel!

John Smith

(Address withheld upon request)

Wow! We won you over! Thanks for giving us the shot, John.

You've got questions, we've got answers. Let's match 'em up.

- 1) As of issue #96. (also drawn by the spectacular Carlos Pacheco!) we'll see that Black Air seems to have big plans for itself--and England!
- 2) They got their own limited series. Don't even tell us you missed the STARJAMMER'S LIMITED SERIES!?
- 3) Shadowcat is a talented young mutant and could phase through just about anything--except she has considerable trouble with highly electromagnetically charged areas. By the way, that's confidential, John. Should it fall into the wrong hands...

Dear Suzanne,

I may not always like the content of Warren Ellis's stories, but he's always a heck of a writer. And EXCALIBUR #91 was the kind of comic I live for! It's always rejuvenating to see our heroes kick back and just be human for

awhile, and it doesn't happen nearly often enough. The entire issue was great, and not one festering wound or open sore. I didn't know Warren was this versatile, and his adapting to the more urbane tone of this book is admirable.

I'm deliriously happy to see Amanda Sefton again. There is something marvelously unique in her undemanding relationship with Kurt. Their link over the years has sometimes been distant, but never faint. Given their unconditional relationship, please don't suddenly complicate them with ineptly romantic hearts and flowers. Neither claims an exclusive commitment from the other, but they fill an emotional void in each other as if they are the very truest of friends who on occasion become lovers. Amanda would gladly give the groom away if Kurt were to happily commit to that one true love of his heart. Speaking of Cerise...bring her back!

Tch! Tch! This Kitty/Pete Wisdom thing ain't gonna happen! They are fundamentally so different that while initially opposites may attract (and tantalize and tease), they won't be able to endure the clashes and conflicts for long. If Shadowcat can keep her head in the midst of an intergalactic firefight, she's not going to be rendered senseless by the giddiness of a budding romance. Of course, there's no "responsible Ororo" on this team to help keep Kitty's feet on the ground. Meggan and Amanda would think it's nice, but I'm betting Moira isn't so tickled for the new couple (once she gets sober.) Contemplating Wisdom's age, the extent of their kissing was really inappropriate, and I'm surprised Kurt and Brian were so permissive, despite their threats and promises of Pete's decapitation. Kitty's still a minor, and this is one aspect of the X-Teams' responsibility for the younger charges that has never been explored. Nothing much was said when it was Cannonball and Lila Cheney. Now that the shoe's on the other gender, consider my interest piqued!

Let "Brian and Meggan" be Brian and Meggan for a while. And the addition of Wolfsbane and Colossus to this book earns you the Smartest Move of the Year Award.

It's cookin' now, Suzanne! By the by, the art assist from Larry Stroman last ish was boss perfect. Thanks!

Doug Tennant

(Address withheld by request)

Awww, Doug. You're too kind... "Boss perfect"--should we quit now while we're ahead? Don't think so. You'd never forgive us for not telling Warren's next story about the London Hellfire Club. It's just too good to be shelved.

Oh, and about all that mushy stuff...don't worry, Kitty'll come back down to Earth. Heroes don't get much down-time, after all. Let her enjoy it, Doug!

Dear Swordstrokes,

I want to thank everyone responsible for the mutant's night out story. With the recent trend toward the darkside today in most comics, its good to see someone knows how to lighten up.

Bobby Johnson

(Address withheld by request)

Glad you enjoyed it, Bobby. We've got a feeling, though, that Excalibur's going to be pretty busy for the next couple of months, what with Onslaught and all... Did we say that?

Dear Swordstrokes,

Right from the start, I'd like to congratulate you all on the splendiferous job you're doing on my favorite X-team. I own every issue, and was always a little peeved when Excalibur wasn't included in the crossovers. I mean, some of them have been around longer than some of the current X-Men teams. Now, on to more pressing items.

I'm very thankful for the amount of character development I've seen lately. Rory is becoming more interesting every time I see him (or see

less of him, as now the case). Kitty Pryde has needed a romantic interest for a long time. And good ol' Rahne Sinclair—finally back where she belongs! I hope she decides to stay around on Muir. If I know my mutants as well as I think. (X-ophile that I am), Colossus is back! The last page of #91 has got me biting my nails waiting for the next issue.

I have a question: Where is Lockheed? He and Shadowcat have always been inseparable, and I haven't seen him since they moved to Moira's place. Please correct this sad oversight and at least have him around again. He was also neglected in the Age of Apocalypse. Dragons can get good lawyers, so bring him back while there's still time!

Well, that pretty much wraps it up. Keep up the great work, and until Meggan gets a buzz-cut, make mine Excalibur!

Craig Langrall
(Address withheld by request)

Well, Craig, Meggan's not getting a buzz cut, but last we saw, Nightcrawler was talking to Kitty about a new "do". And Lockheed, well, we'd give you the answers now but that would spoil next issue for you. And we can't have that, now can we?

Dear Sword Strokes,

Well, I don't know what to say—Kitty and Peter Wisdom? The thought is more surprising than delighting. Still, I think this could be a big break for Kitty. Could she finally be over Colossus? Do you really plan on making Kitty and Peter a couple? If you do, I think it's great. Who knows? Kitty and Pete could make a great couple, just don't put her back with Colossus. They were so boring together, at least Kitty and Pete make an interesting couple, odd, but interesting. Finally, I'd like to say I think your comic book is great, over the years, it's only gotten better. Keep up the good work.

Emily Hu
(Address withheld by request)

"Odd but interesting." Sort of describes Mr. Wisdom, couldn't you say, Kitty? As with all couples, one never knows, do one?

Dear Swordstrokes:

It's been a long time but I can say one thing about issue #91. I enjoyed it. I laughed throughout the whole issue—especially at Moira's slurred accent near the end. I did appreciate Brian's acknowledgement of his drinking past.

Thank you for finally giving Kitty a life. I like this new Pete. Don't change him—not even the smoking! I smoke myself and am really getting annoyed at all this p.c. stuff.

I would like to see more of the fun-loving Kurt in action, with or without Amanda.

I see that Colossus is joining, along with Rahne. Please leave it at that. I really do not go for a lot of people in a book, since someone is always going to be left out.

I do like the direction Warren is taking this book.

I would like to end with a question Is Roma still around?

Tom Johnson
108 Main Street
Butlary, MA 01543

Let's start from the bottom up. Okay by you, Tom?

Yep! Roma's still around. Guess somebody needs to brush up on their X-Factor lore... Just kidding, Tom! But she has been doing her darndest to keep the Adversary from finding--and killing--Forge, and that's no small feat!

And speaking of little feet, we thought Moira was pretty amusing, too. And we're glad Brian shared his history of a drinking problem with Douglock. It's wise to remember we all have limitations, and it's important to be able to share the hardest truths with our friends, for what are friends if not confidants? Tom, Kleenex please.

SNEAK PREVIEW!



NIGHTCRAWLER

BY CARLOS PACHECO

Dear Swordstrokes:

I am a devoted follower of the European based X-Men and have wanted to write since first discovering the series some 4 years ago. I really cannot resist the urge any longer. Let me say that I love Excalibur. Not just because it's set in Britain, not just because it has Nightcrawler, my favorite X-Man, and not just because it has some of the best (and the most weird) storylines.

The reason I love Excalibur is because it has some very funny moments—though I can't for the life of me decide how much of it is intentional and how much is accidental. Take issue #91, for example. This was an excellent issue for a number of reasons. Although there was not so much as a fistfight or even a smidgen of mutant mania to be seen anywhere, (and no one died or discovered that they were their own grandpa), there was this feeling that things were happening and that a new beginning was about to dawn, (eek, cliché this). But, much more importantly, you could actually believe that, by the end of the issue, the characters had had a really good night out.

This, however, is not why I have finally written. What caught my attention were two points of conversation that mentioned the counties of Bedford and Essex. As a native Bedfordian the phrase "Up the wooden hill to Bedfordshire" is, well, archaic and not likely to be uttered by someone under the age of, say, ninety. Nevermind, I found it amusing that such a quaint phrase should be uttered in such a progressive comic. Unintentional humor, perhaps.

Intentional humor occurred--I hope, when Pete Wisdom said that Essex has some of the best sunsets in the world. With a very few notable exceptions, (generally around the north of Essex), this is like saying that New Jersey has some of the best ski slopes in America. Having lived, briefly, in New Jersey and now presently residing in Essex, I feel qualified to make the comparison). So, obviously, it was a quiet in-joke to be appreciated by practically everyone in Britain, and possibly the exceptionally well informed Anglophile, stateside.

Let me say that I'm not criticizing! The fact that the writers actually come up with these quotes and conversation pieces (such as the one where Pete Wisdom explains how to understand

English dialogue by dropping h's and t's at the beginning and ends of words.) keeps me absolutely riveted. This is such great stuff. And, the really amazing thing is, it keeps on getting better!

Also, Pete Wisdom is a really cool dude. And Pryde and Wisdom make a very serious couple.

Also, I just wanted to mention that the Age of Apocalypse was one of the best pieces of hard science fiction--whether written, drawn or filmed--that I've ever encountered!! "Nuff said.

So, until the Big Crunch, make mine a Marvel.

Vivien Collins
89 Letha Grove
Colchester, Essex
England

Aren't you the clever girl, Vivien?! Actually, Warren is over the age of ninety so he's just writin' 'em the way he hears 'em. We'll tell him what you said. 'Course we'll have to speak loudly, and clearly enunciate everything. And if we don't tell you we're just joking about his age we'll have to find a new writer, too.

But seriously, Vivien, thanks for appreciating the extra touches. Warren brings so much to the stories we can't begin to thank him. So we don't. Kidding!!

Pryde and Wisdom--you know that'd be a great name for a limited series, don't ya' think? Why don't we do it in '96? And we'll have Warren write it, too!

You're a genius, Viv!

Dear Swordstrokes:

I just read issue #91, and I must say--I LOVED IT!!!! I am sooo happy Kitty has finally got a love life! By the way she's my fave! A while back, my friend and I wrote a letter and it said among other things that the team needs to take a break and not be so serious. I don't know if you read it or not but, thanks.

I can't wait to see next issue with Pete vs. Pete. Keep up the great work, guys. Excalibur's the best of 'em.

Tina Kemp
(Address withheld by request)

Of course we read the letter, Tina. Who do you think really writes this stuff?

Dear Suzanne,

From what I've read of his work on other Marvel titles, I knew Warren

Ellis was an extremely talented writer. His writing has been very good, very realistic, very humorous, and most of all, very dark. But starting with issue number 91 of EXCALIBUR, I see him in a different way. No longer is he an extremely talented writer. Now he's one of the best writers working in comics today. (If not the best.)

In this issue, Warren demonstrated that he could bring a little light-heartedness to his normally grim side of the Marvel universe. Warren has now established himself, in my mind, as a writer of great range.

It has been a long time since I enjoyed reading a comicbook as much as I did Excalibur #91. As an aspiring writer myself, you have given me a new example to follow. Thank you. (Sorry if I'm rambling, it's late, and I'm tired, but I felt I had to write this letter before I forgot to.)

Whether writing grim or happy, keep it up Warren! Please?

Misha Syeed
4609 Shoshoni Avenue
San Diego, CA 92117

Oh, Misha! Thanks for losing sleep over us. We think you're the dreamiest!!

Dear Sword Strokes,

I just picked up issue #91 of EXCALIBUR. This is my favorite comic out of all of the X-Men groups.

I like Rahne on the team. Her beliefs are interesting. I'm looking forward to knowing more about her.

My favorite character is Nightcrawler. I have a few questions concerning the team.

1. Shadowcat and Pete Wisdom are a great addition to the team. I like them both, but next time could you have Nightcrawler involved a little more in the issues?

2. In Dream Nails, the Hellfire Club donated a Brood. Will Excalibur be paying them a visit in the future?

Oh, yeah, one more question...
3. I love the Midnight Runner. Is it gonna be around awhile?

Well, until Lockheed paints himself blue to be in a commercial with B.B. King make mine Marvel!

Mark Hager
3624 Harris Abbe
Ransomville, NY 14131

Mark--check out the next issue blurb. You're on the money, big guy!!

NEXT ISSUE:

NIGHTCRAWLER

AND MEGAN

GET CAUGHT IN A DEADLY

MID-AIR DOGFIGHT!--

WHILE THE VILLAINOUS

MOUNT JOY

HOOKS UP WITH LONDON'S

HELLFIRE CLUB--

AND SHINOBI SHAW

URNS TO

BRIAN BRADDOCK

FOR HELP!

BE THERE... OR BE SORRY!



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